



SCIENCE

International Cooperation at NASA

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New Frontiers Preproposal Conference
January 20, 2017



International Cooperation: Overview

- International cooperation at NASA:
 - Has been a cornerstone of NASA's activities throughout its history
 - Since 1958, NASA has concluded over 4000 agreements with over 100 nations and international organizations
 - Over 700 active international agreements
 - Cooperation now established with every region in the world
 - 8 partners account for 50% of the agreements
 - ESA, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Canada, Japan, Russia
 - Every Mission Directorate has international partnerships
 - By mission area: 2/3 of agreements are for NASA science missions



Why International Cooperation?

- Benefits of international cooperation:
 - Leverage resources (financial, technological, scientific, etc.)
 - Access foreign capabilities or geography
 - Adds unique capability and/or expertise
 - Increases mission flight opportunities
 - Enhances the scientific return
 - Promote U.S. foreign policy interests
 - NASA follows foreign policy guidance from the U.S. Department of State



Challenges to International Cooperation

- Management complexity
 - Decision-making is inherently more complex
 - Communication challenges
 - Differing specifications, standards and assumptions
- Technical and programmatic risk
 - Interdependence – someone is on the “critical path”
 - Interfaces are difficult to manage at a distance; it’s harder to monitor progress and get early warning of problems
 - Multiple partners with multiple interfaces adds complexity
- Political risk
 - Budgetary and bureaucratic uncertainties
 - Potential linkage to political activities unrelated to the cooperation



International Cooperation: Current Guidelines

- NASA international partners are generally government agencies due to the significant level of investment and legal requirements
- Each Partner funds its respective contributions, but contributions need not be equivalent
- Cooperation must be consistent with foreign policy objectives of each Partner
- Projects/Partnerships:
 - Must have scientific and technical merit and meet NASA program objectives
 - Must be mutually beneficial (demonstrate specific benefit to each Partner)
 - Are structured to protect against unwarranted technology transfer
 - Are structured to establish clearly defined managerial and technical interfaces to minimize complexity
 - Are documented in a written, binding agreement, closely coordinated with the U.S. Department of State and other U.S. government agencies as needed



Why Do We Need International Agreements?

- International Agreements are tools that:
 - Clarify responsibilities of the partners
 - Confirm commitments and terms
 - Document the quid pro quo and benefits of the cooperation
 - Protect investment and interests, such as:
 - Technical data rights
 - Intellectual property rights
 - Allocation of risk – cross-waiver of liability
 - Allow import/export of technical data and goods
 - Confirm arrangements to meet international obligations, such as UN Registration Convention, if necessary



When Do We Draft International Agreements?

- **International Agreements are drafted *after* final selections are made; agreements are not drafted for Phase-A Studies**
- "It is the policy of NASA to establish formal agreements with non-U.S. partners in cooperation on flight missions. Owing to the short duration of the concept study phase, it is not possible for NASA to conclude an international agreement prior to the due date for Concept Study Reports." International Agreements are not required for proposals or Concept Study Reports
- Non-U.S. Participation Requirements are detailed in section 5.7 of the AO
- If the AO proposal is from a foreign entity – or if U.S. AO proposal includes foreign participation – a Letter of Commitment is needed from the foreign partner's government agency or funding institution, acknowledging the activity and preferably indicating sufficient funds will be made available
- Note: International Agreements will likely take several months to put into place!



NASA's International Agreements

- NASA's International Agreements do **NOT** trump export control laws & regulations

An International Agreement does not replace a contractor's need for a Technical Assistance Agreement



Thank You

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